



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Quarterly Survey of Public Pensions

AGENCY: U.S. Census Bureau, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be submitted on or before (insert date 60 days after date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER).

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at jjessup@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies

of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Paul W. Villena, Acting Chief, Employment and Benefit Statistics Branch, Governments Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Headquarters: 6K151, Washington, DC, 20233; telephone: 301.763.7286; facsimile: 301.763.6833; email: paul.w.villena@census.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau plans to request clearance for the form necessary to conduct the Quarterly Survey of Public Pensions. The quarterly survey was initiated by the Census Bureau in 1968 at the request of both the Council of Economic Advisers and the Federal Reserve Board.

The Quarterly Survey of Public Pensions provides national summary data on the revenues, expenditures, and composition of assets of the largest pension systems of state and local governments. These data are used by the Federal Reserve Board to track the public sector portion of the Flow of Funds Accounts. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses these data as part of the government sector projections in the Gross Domestic Product. Economists and public policy analysts use these data to assess general economic conditions and state and local government financial activities.

Data are collected from a panel of defined benefit plans of the 100 largest state and local government pension systems as determined by their total cash and security holdings reported in the 2012 Census of Governments.

The defined benefit plans of these 100 largest pension systems comprise 87.2 percent of financial activity among such entities, based on the 2012 Census of Governments.

II. Method of Collection

Survey data are collected through the Census Bureau's web collection system that enables public entities to respond to the questionnaire via the Internet. The questionnaire is available online for respondents to print when they choose to mail or fax. Most respondents choose to report their data online. In addition to reporting current quarter data, respondents may report data for the previous seven quarters or submit revisions to their previously submitted data.

Usable replies are received each quarter from 80 to 95 percent of the systems canvassed. In those instances when we are not able to obtain a response, we conduct follow-up operations using email and phone calls. Imputations are developed for each of the remaining nonresponse systems in the panel from the latest available data.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0607-0143.

Form Number(s): F-10.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: State and locally-administered public pension plans.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 100.

Estimated Time Per Response: 45 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 300.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C. Section 182.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: October 28, 2014

Glenna Mickelson,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

BILLING CODE: 3510-07-P.

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